

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Claims 1. - 99. (cancelled)

Claim 100. (currently amended) A crystalline mesoporous silica material being obtained by assembly of nanometer size building units having zeolite framework, said crystalline mesoporous silica material having two or more levels of porosity and structural order, ~~and~~ wherein the internal structure of said nanometer size building units does not give rise to Bragg type diffraction in a powder X-ray diffraction pattern of said crystalline mesoporous silica material, wherein said nanometer size building units are nanoslabs of substantially uniform size having the Silicalite-1 zeolite framework, and wherein said two or more levels of porosity comprise at least a microporosity inside said nanoslabs and at least a mesoporosity between said nanoslabs.

Claim 101. (cancelled)

Claim 102. (currently amended) A crystalline mesoporous silica material according to claim 100, ~~wherein said building units are nanoslabs of substantially uniform size having the Silicalite-1 zeolite framework and~~ wherein said nanoslabs are generated by tetrapropylammonium-ion mediation.

Claim 103. (currently amended) A crystalline mesoporous silica material according to claim 100, ~~wherein said building units are nanoslabs of substantially uniform size having the Silicalite-1 zeolite framework and~~ wherein said nanoslabs are linked through their corners, edges or faces following patterns imposed by interaction with a cationic surfactant or triblock copolymer molecule.

Claim 104. (cancelled)

Claim 105. (previously presented) A crystalline mesoporous silica material according to claim 100, wherein said absence of Bragg type diffraction from nanometer size building units manifests itself by the absence of peaks in a powder X-ray diffraction pattern at interplanar spacings below about 1.5 nm.

Claim 106. (cancelled)

Claim 107. (currently amended) A process for making a crystalline mesoporous silica material, said crystalline mesoporous silica material being obtained by assembly of nanometer size building units having zeolite framework, said crystalline mesoporous silica material having two or more levels of porosity and structural order, wherein said building units are nanoslabs of substantially uniform size having the Silicalite-1 zeolite framework, comprising the steps of (a) generating said nanoslabs having said zeolite framework by tetrapropylammonium-ion mediation and (b) assembling said nanoslabs through interaction with a cationic surfactant or triblock copolymer molecule, wherein said two or more levels of porosity comprise at least a microporosity inside said nanoslabs and at least a mesoporosity between said nanoslabs.

Claim 108. (previously presented) A process according to claim 107, further comprising the step of removing said tetrapropylammonium-ion and said cationic surfactant or triblock copolymer molecule.

Claims 109. - 117. (cancelled)

Claim 118. (withdrawn-currently amended) A process for making a substantially crystalline mesoporous oxide based material being obtained by assembly of nanometer size building units having zeolite framework, wherein said assembly proceeds in the presence of one or more amphiphilic non-anionic surfactants, wherein said substantially crystalline mesoporous oxide based material has two or more levels of porosity and structural order, and wherein the internal structure of said nanometer size building units does not give rise to Bragg type diffraction in a powder X-ray diffraction pattern of said substantially crystalline mesoporous oxide based

material, comprising the steps of (a) generating said nanometer size building units having zeolite framework by means of a mediating agent selected from the group consisting of tetraalkylammonium ions, tetraalkylphosphonium ions or gemini (dimeric) tetraalkylammonium ions wherein the alkyl group has from 2 to 4 carbon atoms, and (b) assembling said nanometer size building units through interaction with said one or more amphiphilic non-anionic substances to yield a mesoporous oxide based material, wherein said nanometer size building units are nanoslabs of substantially uniform size having the Silicalite-1 zeolite framework and wherein said two or more levels of porosity comprise at least a microporosity inside said nanoslabs and at least a mesoporosity between said nanoslabs.

Claim 119. (withdrawn-currently amended) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a biologically active species and a substantially ordered mesoporous oxide based material, ~~wherein said ordered oxide based material has one or more levels of porosity or structural order, provided that when said ordered oxide based material has a single level of porosity and structural order it is obtained in the absence of an alpha-tocopherol polyethylene glycol ester templating biomolecule~~ wherein said ordered oxide based material is a crystalline mesoporous silica material being obtained by assembly of nanometer size building units having zeolite framework, said crystalline mesoporous silica material having two or more levels of porosity and structural order, and wherein the internal structure of said nanometer size building units does not give rise to Bragg type diffraction in a powder X-ray diffraction pattern of said crystalline mesoporous silica material and said nanometer size building units are nanoslabs of substantially uniform size having the Silicalite-1 zeolite framework and wherein said two or more levels of porosity comprise at least a microporosity inside said nanoslabs and at least a mesoporosity between said nanoslabs.

Claim 120. (previously presented) A process according to claim 108, further comprising the step of obtaining a powder X-ray diffraction spectrum on said crystalline mesoporous silica material, wherein the internal structure of said nanometer size building units does not give rise to

Bragg type diffraction in said powder X-ray diffraction pattern of said crystalline mesoporous silica material.

Claim 121. (currently amended) A crystalline mesoporous silica material comprising nanometer size building units, wherein said crystalline mesoporous silica material has two or more levels of porosity and structural order, ~~and~~ wherein the internal structure of said nanometer size building units does not give rise to Bragg type diffraction in a powder X-ray diffraction pattern of said crystalline mesoporous silica material, wherein said nanometer size building units are nanoslabs of substantially uniform size having the Silicalite-1 zeolite framework, and wherein said two or more levels of porosity comprise at least a microporosity inside said nanoslabs and at least a mesoporosity between said nanoslabs.

Claim 122. (new) A crystalline mesoporous silica material according to claim 121, wherein said nanoslabs are linked through their corners, edges or faces following patterns imposed by interaction with a cationic surfactant or triblock copolymer molecule.

Claim 123. (new) A crystalline mesoporous silica material according to claim 121, wherein said absence of Bragg type diffraction from nanometer size building units manifests itself by the absence of peaks in a powder X-ray diffraction pattern at interplanar spacings below about 1.5 nm.